

**ABSTRACT**

The invention relates to a device that is used to control the quality of an operation involving the laser beam welding, hardfacing or machining of a part. The inventive device consists of at least one gas blow nozzle (1) comprising: an exhaust duct (5) which is used to release a stream of the gas; and at least one photo-sensitive sensor (3) which is disposed behind the aforementioned exhaust duct (5). The invention also relates to a method of controlling an operation involving the laser welding, hardfacing or machining of a part.